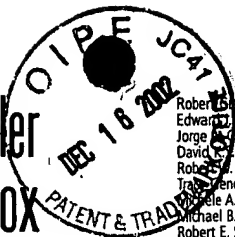




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Federal Agencies

3763

December 16, 2002

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
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MRAY@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Art Unit 3763

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/769,439; Filed: January 26, 2001
For: **Kit for Transvenously Accessing the Pericardial Space Via the Right Atrium**
Inventors: Verrier *et al.*
Our Ref: 1565.0020002/MBR/GSB

Sir:

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DEC 19 2002

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents: TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

1. Reply To Restriction Requirement and Election of Species; and
2. One (1) return postcard.

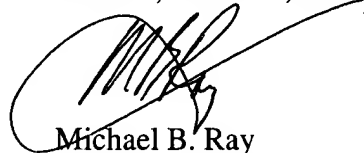
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
December 16, 2002
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

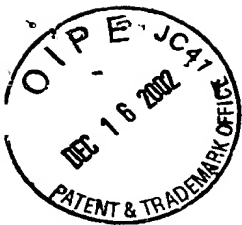


Michael B. Ray
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MBR/GSB:krh

Enclosures

SKGF_DC1:83959.1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Verrier *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/769,439

Filed: January 26, 2001

For: **Kit for Transvenously Accessing
the Pericardial Space Via the
Right Atrium**

Confirmation No.: 4394

Art Unit: 3763

Examiner: Ann Y. Lam

Atty. Docket: 1565.0020002

#10

ARNS

12/20/02

**Reply To Restriction Requirement
and Election of Species**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated **November 19, 2002** (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 9), Applicants submit the following Response.

It is believed that extensions of time are not required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this Amendment. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Remarks

In reply to the Office Action dated November 19, 2002 (Paper No. 9), requesting an election of one invention to prosecute in the above-referenced patent application, Applicants hereby elect without traverse to prosecute the invention relating to the